



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED FOR
MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT FRAUD SCHEME**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that announced today that Henry Clasen of San Antonio was sentenced to 108 months in federal prison for defrauding more than 50 victims of approximately \$1.7 million. In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Royal Furgeson, Jr., ordered that Clasen pay restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On November 21, 2006, Clasen pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities, mail and wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. By pleading guilty, Clasen admitted that from 1999 to 2002, he implemented a Ponzi Scheme that fraudulently induced individuals to invest their money in various companies and/or business opportunities with strong potential for growth and profit. The investors were promised rates of return which he knew were unachievable. Clasen told the investors he had invested their money, but instead he converted it to his own personal use. When it was time for a dividend or profit to be paid, Clasen would use funds from new investors to pay the dividend or profit owed to prior investors. The misled investors, pleased with their "earnings," in turn, invested additional moneys in the fraudulent venture(s), while also encouraging others to do so.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, State of Texas Securities Board, San Antonio Police Department Special Crimes Unit, Bexar County District Attorney's Office and the Fair Oaks Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Tom McHugh prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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